

Message Text

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AMCONSUL BELIZE

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TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MMOL, BB, BH, GT, UK
BARBADIAN DEVELOPMENTS ON BELIZE ISSUE

1. AFTER TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER TOM ADAMS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTER HENRY FORDE ON JANUARY 17, BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE MINIS-
TER TED ROWLAND DEPARTED BARBADOS ON JANUARY 18 FOR JAMAICA.
ROWLAND TOLD NEWSMEN THAT HIS VISIT WAS A PART OF THE REGULAR
CONSULTATIVE PROCESS BETWEEN THE UKG AND GOB BUT ACKNOLEDGED THAT
THE BELIZE ISSUE WAS A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. ROWLAND SAID THAT BAR-
BADOS AND BRITAIN SHARED THE OBJECTIVE OF SECURING AN EARLY IN-
DEPENDENCE FOR BELIZE. THE BRITISH MINISTER RESPONDED TO AREPORT
THAT BRITAIN WAS PREPARED TO CEDE A PART OF BELIZE TO GUATEMALA
BY SAYING QUOTE THETE IS NO AGREEMENT, NO DEAL; AND NO DEAL, NO
AGREEMENT CAN BE MADE WITH BRITAIN AND GUATEMALA WITHOUT THE CON-
SENT AND SUPPORT OF THE BELIZE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE UNQUOTE.
ROWLAND'S STATEMENT REFLECTS THE GENERAL APPROACH TAKEN BY THE
REST OF THE CARIBBEAN TO ANY BELIZE SETTLEMENT. PRIME MINISTER
ADAMS, WHO IS THE CARIBBEAN SPOKESMAN ON THE BELIZE ISSUE, TOLD
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THE JUNE MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN LONDON
THAT THERE COULD BE NO DECING OF BELIZE TERRITORY WITHOUT THE
PERMISSION OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE.

2. THE GOB, MEANWHILE, HAS GIVEN NOTICE THAT IT WILL
APPEAL A DECISION BY A MAGISTRATE'S COURT THAT THE GOB HAD NO
LEGAL GROUNDS UPON WHICH TO SEIZE 900 CASES OF AMMUNITION

CONSIGNED TO THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES THAT WERE TRANSITING THE BARBADOS AIRPORT ON JUNE 25, 1977. THE MAGISTRATE THAT HEARD THE CASE IN DECEMBER RULED JANUARY 6 THAT THE GOODS WERE IN TRANSIT, THAT NO IMPORT LICENCE WAS NEEDED AND THAT THE GOB'S REQUEST THAT THE AMMUNITION BE FORFEITED WAS REJECTED. THE BARBADOS COMPTROLLER OF CUSTOMS SEIZED THE 26 TONS OF AMMUNITION LAST YEAR ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS A PROHIBITED IMPORT BROUGHT INTO BARBADOS WITHOUT THE PROPER LICENCE. THE MAGISTRATE'S RULING WILL MOST LIKELY BE UPHELD IN THE APPEALS COURTS, ALTHOUGH THE GOB WILL PURSUE THE CASE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL REPORTEDLY IN ORDER TO DELAY THE SHIPMENT OF AMMUNITION TO GUATEMALA AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND THEREBY INDICATE ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT OF BELIZE IN THE DISPUTE WITH GUATEMALA.
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